

**What is claimed is:**

1. In a communications receiver having a timing recovery module, carrier recovery module, automatic gain control module, and equalization module, said communications receiver responsive to a received signal to form soft decision samples corresponding to said received signal and hard decision samples corresponding to said received signal, a method for jointly operating said timing recovery module, said carrier recovery module, said automatic gain control module, and said equalization module, said method comprising:

deriving control signals from said soft and hard decision samples;

and using said control signals to jointly determine operation of said timing recovery module, said carrier recovery module, said automatic gain control module, and said equalization module.